

What Is Marriage?

Seriously, I have been pondering this for quite awhile now.

That being said, those of you that hold to section 132, I cannot probably demonstrate anything that will make sense. Those that hold to the old D&C section 101, will most likely see that as the answer to the title of this post.

However, looking at the subject from the Bible and Book of Mormon, there are some things to consider.

In Genesis we see a multitude of the use of the words marriage, wife, husband, etc. Of course there is the familiar of:

21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof.

22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman [heb. Isha], because she was taken out of Man [heb. Ish].

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. (Genesis 2)

This was referenced by the Lord in the New Testament:

4)And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

5)And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6)Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. (Matthew 19)

The question is how did God join them together?

I find the following scripture to be especially important:

65)For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself.

66)And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.

67)And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became

his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. (Genesis 24)

The God of Isaac was with him in his actions.

You can go on and on looking for an authority figure from God to have solemnized a marriage in the Bible, BUT... guess what? You won't find any. The closest thing are marriage SUPPERS. The same in John 2. There are marriage SUPPERS, but no ceremony, etc.

As a matter of fact, you won't find any civil authority solemnizing marriages in the Bible either.

IMO in all of this marriage is a public statement via a supper or something similar declaring to the world there was a recognized joining. No priestcraft was practiced in assuming authority to join together a man and his wife.

In the Book of Mormon you will only find the word "Marriage" mentioned **ONCE**:

11)And they were married, and given in marriage, and were blessed according to the multitude of the promises which the Lord had made unto them. (4 Nephi)

More common are accounts like:

1)AND now I would that ye might know, that after my father, Lehi, had made an end of prophesying concerning his seed, it came to pass that the Lord spake unto him again, saying that it was not meet for him, Lehi, that he should take his family into the wilderness alone; but that his sons should take daughters to wife, that they might raise up seed unto the Lord in the land of promise. (1 Nephi 7)

and

7)And it came to pass that I, Nephi, took one of the daughters of Ishmael to wife; and also, my brethren took of the daughters of Ishmael to wife; and also Zoram took the eldest daughter of Ishmael to wife. (1 Nephi 16)

and

10)And now, therefore, let my father send for Akish, the son of Kimnor; and behold, I am fair, and I will dance before him, and I will please him, that he will desire me to wife; wherefore if he shall desire of thee that ye shall give unto him me to wife, then shall ye say: I will give her if ye will bring unto me the head of my father, the king. (Ether 8)

Again, there are many other references to wife and husband in the Book of Mormon. But you

cannot find a solemnization of a marriage by a third party be it a canopy or other kind of ceremony.

IMO it wasn't until the great and abominable church of the devil (starting with the Jews and to the current state of things worldwide and among all churches, etc.) got involved in enforced priestcraft that the sacred institution of marriage became filthy. See:

12)But Alma said unto him: Behold, this is the first time that priestcraft has been introduced among this people. And behold, thou art not only guilty of priestcraft, but hast endeavored to enforce it by the sword; and were priestcraft to be enforced among this people it would prove their entire destruction.

...

16)Nevertheless, this did not put an end to the spreading of priestcraft through the land; for there were many who loved the vain things of the world, and they went forth preaching false doctrines; and this they did for the sake of riches and honor. (Alma 1)

Look at the Book of Moroni. All those chapters refer to essentials in the Lord's church, BUT guess what? No mention of solemnizing marriage. How important is marriage? Wouldn't there be some sort of formal wording from Christ if it was intended to be enforced by priests, rabbi, justices of the peace, etc., etc.

I see the bastardization of marriage by the current churches and governments to take by force money, freedom, authority, etc. This of course will include ALL of Christianity.

The Lord protected women as best He could by requiring a bill of divorcement.

Does anyone know how the Native Americans consider marriage?

ADDEDUM:

1)Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2)Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

3)Forbidding to marry.... (1 Timothy 4)

Now the first inclination I used to have was no one is forbidding to marry except catholic popes. However if we approach this scripture from the point of view I expressed earlier in this post:

*"IMO it wasn't until the great and abominable church of the devil (starting with the Jews and to the current state of things worldwide and among **ALL** churches, etc.) got involved in enforced priestcraft that the sacred institution of marriage became filthy."*

and

*I see the bastardization of marriage by the current churches and governments to take by force money, freedom, authority, etc. This of course will include **ALL** of Christianity.*

This is my new understanding of how the "forbidding" takes place. People are forbidden to marry unless it is done how the churches in cooperation with governments say it should be done. If people do not do it their way, then they are considered illegitimate and sinful.

They then used shame, guilt, and fear to bring people into captivity in one way or another. Marriage is intended by God to be a wonderful joining of one man with one woman to find joy and salvation together.